

Bridgeport Evening Farmer

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PRICE TWO CENTS

AMERICAN PRISONERS ABOARD YARROWDALE HELD CAPTIVE AS BERLIN SEEKS TO LEARN STATUS OF CREWS OF GERMAN LINERS HERE

13 DIE AS FIRE HITS BIG HOTEL

Minneapolis Hostelry Is Swept by Flames and Many Guests Perish As Building Crumbles—Scores Hurt in Their Flight to Safety.

Engines Delayed in Reaching Fire and Flame Cuts Off Escape of Many Victims—Man and Wife, Embracing, Leap Together From Room.

Minneapolis, Feb. 12.—At least 13 persons were believed to have lost their lives in a fire that destroyed the Kenwood Hotel here, shortly after midnight, according to police estimates today.

In addition to the known missing, there are 11 others unaccounted for who may be in the ruins, according to E. D. Stalker, proprietor of the hotel. One person is known to be dead. A score of persons were injured, some seriously, by leaping from the top floors of the structure when the one fire escape became heated.

Police and fire department officials believe that nearly a score of persons were precipitated into the basement by crumbling floors and buried in the debris, over which thick layers of ice have formed.

Many of the seventy-six guests were transient and the actual death list probably will never be known.

The fire, which apparently started in the basement, spread rapidly and soon the building was enveloped in flames. The stairways were impassable and people rushed to the windows. While figures hung from many windows other shot through the air into nets and snow drifts. One woman, her night clothing aflame, rushed from the group of hysterical guests on the top floor and dropped out of the window into a snow drift. She may live.

When the fire started most of the downtown apparatus was fighting another fire and it was nearly 15 minutes before the first company reached the scene. A crowd of spectators who were pushing planks to the lower windows as a means of rescue, attacked the flames because they carried no ladders, according to the fire chief, Charles Ringer. The police soon quelled the disturbance. The second company arrived with ladders several minutes later.

A number of children were dropped from windows into the arms of spectators. None were seriously hurt. "We are at sea as to the number of deaths," said Ernest D. Stalker, proprietor of the hotel. "Until the survivors are checked up the death list will be unknown."

Chief Ringer declared recovery of bodies was unlikely, adding that identification would be impossible even if the bodies were dug from the ruins. While several of the injured were in a serious condition it was reported that a City hospital that most of them would recover. One woman who became hysterical after being rescued ran down the street screaming and her feet were frozen before she was overtaken. Others, garbed in night attire, suffered intensely in the 10 below zero temperature.

While the fire was at its height Henry Jensen and his wife crawled to a window ledge on the top floor. For a moment they paused, then Jensen embraced his wife and together they leaped to the street while spectators cheered. Mrs. Jensen was severely injured, but her husband was not seriously hurt.

FLEE HOTEL FIRE
North Providence, R. I., Feb. 12.—Eighteen persons escaped without injury from the "Squantum" hotel, a small wooden structure, which was damaged by fire today. One woman was taken down a ladder from the top floor by firemen and the others were aroused in time to reach the street before the flames gained much headway. The loss was estimated at \$5,000.

GERMAN WAR LOAN.
Amsterdam, Feb. 12.—A telegram received today from Berlin, says the payments on the fifth German war loan have brought the total payments on the five war loans to 47,200,000,000 marks. Of this sum, 899,000,000 marks was subscribed through banks.

SHE LOVED NICE INSURANCE MAN, SO THEY ELOPED

New York Woman Leaves Husband; Lover Quits Family of Four.

**INDIGNANT SPOUSE
LOCATES PAIR HERE**

Won't Take Wife Back, He Tells Police, But Wants to Get Divorce.

Mrs. William E. Spence, wife of a New York real estate broker, about a year ago, heavily insured the lives of both herself and her husband according to the police. Each week Morris Goldberg, also of New York, in the employ of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., visited Mrs. Spence to collect the premiums.

Both being disciples of Plato they contracted a friendship, which, however, gradually assumed the grounds of matrimony as laid down by the philosopher and resulted in Mrs. Spence running away from her husband with Goldberg, who left behind him, in New York, a wife and three small children.

Mrs. Goldberg obtained a bench warrant for her arrest on abandonment charges. Spence, somehow or other heard Goldberg was missing. He got busy and heard that his wife came here with Goldberg about 10 days ago. The irate husband came to the City hall and filed a complaint morning and said he knew the couple were living together at 86 Washington avenue.

Detective Seery visited the house and arrested Goldberg who will be turned over to the New York authorities. Spence as he left police headquarters declared the following:

"Take her back? Not on your life! I'm going up there to take a look at her. I want to identify her for future use. I'm going to sue for divorce."

Whether he "looked at her" is not known. The police have not seen him since.

AUCTION SALES CO. DISAPPEARS FROM THE CITY

Folds Its Tent, So to Speak, and Silently Slips Away From Creditors.

The Auction Sales Co., operating an auction room at 1302 Main street, has been pushing planks to the lower windows as a means of rescue, attacked the flames because they carried no ladders, according to the fire chief, Charles Ringer. The police soon quelled the disturbance. The second company arrived with ladders several minutes later.

As a result of the operations of the managers of the Auction Sales Co. in this city, large stock subscriptions now believed to be valueless, were made by Bridgeporters and by several occasions the methods of the auctioneers employed came under police surveillance and regulation.

It has been found that goods valued between \$800 and \$1,000 have been conveyed into the state of New York and sent for sale by the filing of a petition in bankruptcy at Hartford today, federal officers will be asked to consider criminal prosecutions under the conspiracy act. Attachment was made in this city Saturday upon the proceeds of a bond filed with the treasurer of the state of Connecticut to cover an itinerant vendor's license taken out by the officers of the Auction Sales Co. and later claimed by John Yates, of New York, who claimed judgment against those who applied for the license.

The whole scheme is denounced today by Alexander D. DeLaney, counsel for the creditors in Bridgeport, as one of the most flagrant attempts to defraud stockholders and creditors ever perpetrated within the city of Bridgeport.

NAVY DEPT. IS ASKED TO FURNISH GUNS TO ARM AMERICAN SHIPS

Washington, Feb. 12.—P. A. S. Franklin, president of the International Marine, today made formal application to the navy department for guns to arm the passenger liners of the American line.

The request says that the company has been unable to find guns elsewhere. It is indicated that the navy department, while opposed for military reasons to any project of conveying American merchantmen through the prohibited zones, favors arming such ships with guns for their own defense. Inasmuch as the government has recognized that naval stores are the only supply of naval guns, it has been held that obtaining guns from that source does not alter the privilege or commercial character of a ship.

The navy department, it was said officially, has a considerable number of old model three-inch to six-inch rifles available for arming merchant ships, but not enough for the conversion of all ships that would require in war and to furnish defensive armament for all merchantmen.

The question of supplying trained gun crews for merchantmen is more difficult from the departmental point of view. There is objection to withdrawing men from the active service of the navy at this time and there is also some question as to what effect such a step would have on the status of a ship. French ship owners furnished guns by their navy were required to make oath that they were to be handled by civilian crews.

The possibility that the navy might supply guns indirectly through loan or sale to ship owners has received some consideration, but a preference for direct action by the department in placing the guns aboard in indicated by the ship owners.

GEO. W. KNIGHT, AGED INSURANCE MAN DROPS DEAD

Succumbs to Heart Failure Attack While Walking in Courtland Street.

George W. Knight, of Stratfield road, one of Bridgeport's oldest and most widely known real estate and insurance agents, dropped dead on the sidewalk in front of Christ church, in Courtland street, this morning at 9:30 o'clock. His death, according to Medical Examiner S. M. Garlick, was due to heart failure, which it is thought was superinduced by the extreme cold.

Knight had been to his offices at 952 Main street, where he opened his early morning mail. Taking a bundle of laundry which he had brought from his home, he left the office and started for the Crawford Laundry in Fairfield avenue. While walking past Christ church, Miss Nellie F. Wilson, of 599 Warren street, a member of the Visiting Nurse association, saw him fall to the sidewalk.

She immediately called the emergency hospital corps and Dr. S. I. Aranki removed Knight to the latter institution in the ambulance. Assisted by Miss Katherine Hohler, the nurse at the hospital, the physician, finding the body still warm, worked heroically to restore life without avail.

Opening the laundry bundle the doctor obtained his first clue by means of the mark on the clothing that sent for the dead man's grandson, George W. Wright, of 27 Park terrace, who made the identification positive. Mr. Wright said his grandfather was about 80 years of age.

Mr. Knight was born in Orange, N. J., 80 years ago. In his youth he engaged in real estate and other businesses in Paterson, N. J. Twenty-four years ago he came to Nichols where for 20 years he was the proprietor of a large farm. After the death of his wife, Mr. Knight came to Bridgeport and engaged in the real estate business here, with offices in the City Savings bank. He was prominent in Masonic circles of Paterson where he was a member of the Knights Templar.

Mr. Knight is survived by two sisters in New York and three grandchildren in Paterson.

NAME BONILLAS MEXICAN ENVOY AT WASHINGTON

**Carranzistas Designate Late
Member of Mediation
Board for Post.**

Washington, Feb. 12.—Ignacio Bonillas, one of Gen. Carranza's representatives on the Mexican-American joint commission, has been named ambassador from Mexico to the United States. Ramon De Negri, who has been in charge of the Mexican embassy since the departure of Eliseo Arredondo, ambassador designate, was informed today of Mr. Bonillas's appointment.

Mr. Bonillas is now in Palm Beach, Fla. It is expected that he will come to Washington this week to present his credentials at almost the same time that Henry P. Fletcher, the American ambassador to Mexico, is received by the Mexican government.

Mr. Bonillas has been the minister of communications in Gen. Carranza's cabinet since the formation of his government.

PLANTS IN WEST END TIED UP BY HOLIDAY DISPUTE

Union Members Want Time and One Half for Working on the Holiday.

**MANY REFUSE TO
GO ON WITH WORK**

Conference of Workers and Heads of Factories Will Adjust Differences.

When is a holiday not a holiday?

An attempt to determine this question will be made during the coming week by representatives of the management of the American Graphophone Co., Harvey Hubbell, Inc., Bryant Electric Co. and the Sienon Hard Rubber Co. in a conference they will endeavor to bring about with representatives of the various unions of the working people employed in their factories.

There are a number of days marked in the calendar as holidays which the management of the factories named do not consider holidays in the terms of their agreement to pay time and a half for employees for labor performed on those days. Today, Lincoln's birthday, is one of the days in dispute.

The action today of the management of the American Graphophone Co. regarding the status of this holiday and the agreement with employees has brought the matter to a head. Last week the company posted a notice stating that while the management did not recognize Lincoln's birthday as a holiday in the meaning of the agreement with the employees, the factory would be open as usual, but no extra time would be paid those who worked. A similar course was adopted by the management last year. After the notice had been posted members of the union were informed that if they worked today without getting the time and a half pay, they would be fined \$4 each by the union.

In consequence less than one-quarter of the employees reported for work this morning. E. A. Harvey and other union officials were on hand despite the cold to check up those who went to work. A number of the hands who reported and went to work were said not to be members of the union. Some of those who did go to work when they saw others standing outside the factory took off their aprons and joined their co-workers outside.

The presence of these men and women about the factory entrances gave rise to a rumor that there had been a strike at the factory. Asked about the matter Superintendent Hanson first denied that anything unusual had taken place. Later, he admitted that a large number of his employees had stayed away from the factory.

"There has been no strike," he said. "What has happened is hardly worthy of mention. A number of the employees stayed out today because we will not pay them time and a half for the day. They will all be back to work tomorrow."

Rather than pay the extra compensation for work today, or have any disputes with their workmen, the management of the Bryant Electric, Harvey Hubbell and Sienon Hard Rubber companies, closed their factories entirely today. Some time this week they will get together with the heads of the union and endeavor to have the holidays designated to which the extra compensation rule applies.

The factory managers are willing to pay the overtime for labor on Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and possibly Good Friday. They object, however, to paying overtime for Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays, both of which occur this month, St. Patrick's Day, Columbus Day and New Year's.

Ever since the agreement with the unions and these factory superintendents the facts as to the holidays included in the articles have been in dispute. An effort will be made this week to write into the articles of agreement the names of the holidays for which the extra compensation shall be paid.

BABE STRANGLES TO DEATH.
New Britain, Feb. 12.—Mr. and Mrs. Stanislaw Kowalski ran nearly a mile early today in an effort to prevent their baby, 15 months old, from strangling. They were unsuccessful.

The child was sucking a soup bone for breakfast and a silver of bone became lodged in its throat with fatal effect.

THE WEATHER

Connecticut—Fair and continued cold tonight; Tuesday, fair with rising temperature; moderate to fresh northwest to north winds.

German Foreign Office Asks Swiss Envoy Here to Ascertain Facts Regarding Sailors in U. S. Ports—Zimmerman Says Americans Will Not Be Released Until Status of Germans is Definitely Determined—Reported in Berlin That Interned Crews Have Been Seized—Ambassador Gerard and Suite Are Received in Switzerland.

Berlin, Feb. 12, by Wireless to The Associated Press via Sayville—Foreign Secretary Zimmerman today informed the Associated Press that he had requested the Swiss government to make inquiry in Washington regarding the status of the crews of interned German ships in American ports.

Pending an answer, the 72 Americans taken by the German raider and brought in by the Yarrowdale, whose release had been agreed to, are held in Germany, the foreign secretary said. During the last week recurring rumors have reached Berlin by way of London in which it was announced that the United States government had sequestered the German ships and interned their crews. No definite official denial having been received, the German government was prompted to ask the government of Switzerland to obtain specific information.

"We could not consent to the release of the Yarrowdale prisoners which was taken to be agreed to a week ago," said the foreign secretary. "These men had been taken off armed merchantmen and their status had been established. They will be liberated just as soon as we learn the fate of the German crews in American ports."

"The release of the Yarrowdale prisoners was agreed to with Ambassador Gerard on the eve of the break in relations, but the possibility of the German crews being interned in the United States prompted the admiralty to rescind the orders liberating the Americans held with the rest of the Yarrowdale prisoners."

GERARD AND SUITE AT ZURICH
Washington, Feb. 12.—Official reports on the arrival of former Ambassador Gerard and his suite in Zurich, Switzerland, reached the state department today from American Minister Stovall in Berne. They added nothing to the information already published.

The Swiss legation received a dispatch today from its foreign office announcing Mr. Gerard's arrival in Berne.

Minister Stovall's message, dated yesterday, follows: "Ambassador Gerard, with staff and party, have arrived at Zurich and will reach Berne at 9 o'clock this evening. All are well. I met the ambassador at the frontier and Col. Bruegger, adjutant general of the Swiss army, specially designated by the federal council, welcomed him on behalf of the Swiss government."

WILL MEET SWISS PRESIDENT
Berne, Feb. 12.—Ambassador Gerard will receive President Schultess and Herr Hoffman, chief of the foreign department, today.

WARY OF GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS
Washington, Feb. 12.—Officials today were still inclined to regard the latest offer of Germany to discuss means of preventing war, presented through the Swiss minister on Saturday, only as an effort to cast on the United States the appearance of being belligerent.

The official attitude seemed to be that the United States and Germany can have no diplomatic dealings until Germany gives up its program of unrestricted submarine warfare and that any other advances will serve only to becloud the issue of American rights. It is not certain whether any answer will be made to the suggestion.

Officials noted with interest today that the submarine toll of merchant shipping yesterday had sunk to the lowest level since the campaign began.

SHIP FROM U. S. PORT TORPEDOED

Washington Tells Status of German Ships in Port Here

Washington, Feb. 12.—There are two classes of German ships in American ports. Those interned are war vessels, such as the commerce raiders Prinz Eitel Friedrich, Kronprinz Wilhelm and such naval vessels as the gunboats Cormorant at Guam and Geier at Honolulu. The crews of these vessels, as well as the ships, being part of the German naval forces which have taken refuge in neutral harbors, are interned as prisoners for the duration of the war under provision of international law and the Hague conventions.

The status of the warbound German merchantmen is different, and so is the status of their crews. The merchant ships are not interned in any sense of the word, but are remaining in harbor of refuge. They are free to put to sea at any time and take their chances with the enemy warships. Their crews are in the same status as any other aliens coming to the United States. Any one of them may be admitted to the country on fulfilling the immigration requirements. While they are in the status of aliens they are for the present confined aboard their ships by the immigration authorities in accord with the steps taken against the destruction of property or menaces to navigation in American harbors.